

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lacourcelle (US 5966975) in view of Mukherjee (US 5808262), Rupert (US 4786777) and Anthony et al. (US 5636545). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

Applicants acknowledge that Lacourcelle teaches passing a wire through a bath of molten metal, coating a surface of the wire with zinc by heating and passage through a molten zinc bath, and drawing the wire to a required diameter after passage through a series of dies.

However, Applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in Lacourcelle of the combination of “**pre-coating**”, “**main-coating**” and “**secondly surface-forming**” steps recited in claim 1. Further, the Examiner has not addressed these steps in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Thus, even if Lacourcelle is somehow modified in the fashion suggested by the Examiner, the resultant would not render obvious the invention of claim 1.

Further, with respect to Mukherjee and the dependent claims, the Examiner's attention is directed to the following table:

	Dependent claims	Mukherjee
Zinc bath temperature (C)	pre-coating: 440 ~ 500°C main-coating: 430 ~ 480 C	60 - 70°C
Wire diameter in annealing	n/a	3.0mm/under 419 °C
Reduction rate of section area after drawing	4 ~ 80 times (0.3~ mm ²) (from mother wire)	98% (from mother wire)
Wire moving speed in furnace (pipe)	30~50m/min (at mother wire on intermediate process before final drawing)	40mm/min (at final product after drawing)

As described in the above table, the zinc bath temperature, the wire diameter in annealing, the reduction rate of section area and the wire moving speed of the dependent claims are different from those of Mukherjee.

Further, it is clear that neither Rupert nor Anthony et al. teach or suggest the above-discussed features of the present claimed invention.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully contend that claims 1-5 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in view of the references of record, taken individually or in combination.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon the claims now pending in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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